



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent



MontCAS
Montana Comprehensive Assessment System
May 2011

2011-12 Statewide Assessment Schedule

December 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012 (<i>Tentative window</i>)	English Language Proficiency Assessment--WIDA Please see information beginning on page 4 of this newsletter.
January 18 - 20, 2012	OPI Assessment and Data Conference, Helena
February 8 - March 23, 2012	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science. The first week of this window is intended for training and the preparation of materials.
February 29 – March 23, 2012	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science

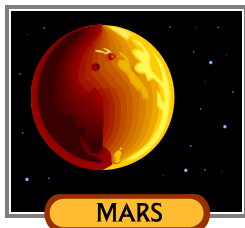
CRT and CRT-Alternate Spring 2011 Results

May 31, 2011 (by 5pm)	CRT and CRT-Alternate Reading, Math, and Science Summary Reports and Interactive Data, System Roster Data File, and Individual Student Reports posted on <i>MARS</i> .
September 1, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRT and CRT-Alternate Report Interpretation Guides, Individual Student Reports, and Cumulative Folder Labels shipped to System Test Coordinators.• Each system and school should have a plan to ensure that student reports will be sent to parents/guardians within two weeks of receipt.

- **Reading and Math results for grades 3-8 and 10 and Science results for grades 4, 8, and 10** will be available on the Montana Analysis and Reporting System (*MARS*) **May 31, 2011**. The school and system reports posted on *MARS* are Roster and Item Level Reports and Summary Reports. The System Roster Data File and Individual Student Reports will also be posted.

NOTE: More information about *MARS* begins on page 2 of this newsletter.

- **Printed Individual Student Reports** and cumulative file labels for Reading and Math in grades 3-8 and 10 and Science in grades 4, 8, and 10 will be mailed to System Test Coordinators in September. Each system and school should have a plan to ensure that student reports will be sent to parents/guardians within two weeks of receipt.
 - In the September shipment will be letters to accompany the Individual Student Reports for students who participated in the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation(s).
 - Please read the letter and send it **ONLY** with reports that indicate a nonstandard accommodation(s). If a report indicates the student took the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation (s), the letter should accompany the report home.
 - Please **do not** send the letter with all reports. Thank you.
 - In some cases, student results were invalidated due to testing irregularities. Each district and school has been notified.
 - The reports for those students with invalidated results will indicate the invalidation(s).
 - It is recommended that the students' parents/guardians be contacted prior to their receiving the reports.
- **Released items** will be posted on *MARS* and on the OPI assessment website on May 31: http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_8
 - Click on the Released Items tab to view a list of the files.
- **Reports for home-schooled students** who took the CRT or CRT-Alternate in your school:
 - The results for these students are not included in any of your system or school reports on *MARS*.
 - In September, you (or the County Superintendent) will receive the printed Individual Student Report and cumulative file label for each home-schooled student who took the test in your school.
 - Please contact the County Superintendent to arrange delivery of these items to the parents/guardians.



***MARS* Information**

MARS, the Montana Analysis and Reporting System, is a secure online site accessible by user names and passwords assigned to schools and districts.

Results of the 2011 CRT and CRT-Alternate will be posted on *MARS* by May 31, 2011.

- System Test Coordinator and Principal's MARS passwords will remain the same.
- 2010 teacher level passwords will be refreshed.
 - If a teacher was assigned to a student in the "Sortby" field in AIM for the 2011 testing, a new 2011 password will automatically be generated and posted in the "Teacher Roster."
 - The Teacher Roster can be accessed on the Principal's homepage in MARS.
 - If a teacher was not assigned to a student (s) in AIM, the test coordinator/principal will need to make the assignments and create new passwords using the Accounts Management tool in MARS.

The **MARS User Manual** and the reports will be posted on the secure Measured Progress iServices site: <http://iServices.MeasuredProgress.org>

- Select "**Montana**" or "**Montana ALT**" (either works for both CRT and CRT-ALT) from the dropdown menu and click "Enter."
- For the *User Manual*, select "Forms and Manuals"
 - Select **MARS User Manual** (pdf)
- For **MARS**
 - Select **MARS**
 - Enter your User Name and Password. These were assigned to systems and schools in June 2008.
 - If you need password assistance, please contact Gayle Allen at OPI: gallen2@mt.gov or 406-444-3511



MontCAS Presents: Two Summer Online Classes

- **Standards-Based IEPs** was funded by a United States Department of Education General Supervision Enhancement Grant. The class includes a series of prerecorded online modules and discussion boards facilitated by Dr. Gail McGregor of the University of Montana.
 - The class will be offered June 27 – July 29, 2011
 - The deadline to register for graduate credit or renewal units is June 17.
 - The link to the syllabus is <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Pdf/Assessment/MCPresents/IEPs/11SummerSyllabus.pdf>
- **FAME-CI: Formative Assessment for Montana Educators – Classroom Instruction**, includes a series of readings and online learning communities. Dr. Stevie Schmitz will facilitate the learning communities.
 - FAME-CI expands upon the previous online FAME class; however, there are no prerequisite classes.

- The class will be offered June 13-July 25, 2011.
- The deadline to register for graduate credit or renewal units is June 1.
- The text will be provided to Montana educators while supplies last.

Please visit

http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html

Or contact Karen Richem for more information or preregistration for the FAME-CI class.

krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-0748

2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Information Update

AYP Determination Schedule

June 17, 2011	Proposed AYP Determinations are mailed to schools/districts. Schools/districts have 10 working days to file an appeal for review of proposed AYP determinations.
July 6, 2011	Deadline for schools/districts to request an appeal.
July 29, 2011	Final AYP determinations are mailed to schools/districts.

AYP Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs)

State Superintendent Denise Juneau has written a letter to Secretary Arne Duncan explaining that Montana will not increase its AMOs for the 2010-2011 AYP calculations. Below is the original table of AMOs with the 2011 AMOs added and highlighted. Superintendent Juneau intends for the highlighted AMOs to be used in the 2010-2011 AYP calculations. The Department of Education has not yet responded to Superintendent Juneau's letter.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Reading	74%	74%	83%	83%	83%	83%	92%	92%	92%	100%
Math	51%	51%	68%	68%	68%	68%	84%	84%	84%	100%

The link to the letter is: http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Supt/Duncan_ltr.pdf

AYP New Federal Student Groups Reporting Requirements

States are now required to use seven mutually exclusive race-ethnicity categories for reporting aggregate data to the U. S. Department of Education, and, in the 2010-11 school year, Montana districts began to use these seven categories in reports to OPI. An explanation of the process and its possible effect on AYP is at the following link:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/AYP/FedStudentGroupReportRequirements.pdf>



English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment

The Montana Office of Public Instruction has entered into a memorandum of understanding to join the World-Class Instruction Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium. This means that the current MontCAS English Language Proficiency Assessment will no longer be used as the statewide assessment of students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

- ✚ WIDA is a multi-state coalition of state departments of education that acts in collaboration to research, design and implement a standards-based educational system that promotes equitable educational opportunities for students with Limited English Proficiency in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. As a member of WIDA, OPI will be a member of the governing board that makes decisions about test development and research to improve both the instruction and assessment of LEP students.

- ✚ The English language development standards, a screener/placement test known as the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT™), and the summative assessment, ACCESS for ELLs®, are all designed sharing the same underlying structure. This includes the five standards:

- Social and Instructional language
- Language of Language Arts
- Language of Mathematics
- Language of Science
- Language of Social Studies

And their organization:

- Two frameworks: summative and formative
- Four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing
- Six language proficiency levels: 1-Entering, 2-Emerging, 3-Developing, 4-Expanding, 5-Bridging, and 6-Reaching
- Five grade-level clusters: PreK-K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

- ✚ The 2011-12 testing window for ACCESS for ELLs is tentatively planned for December 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. Montana educators will have access to:

- W-APT, a placement test for determining appropriate initial placement of students with limited English Proficiency
- WIDA professional development opportunities scheduled through OPI
- Research resources to inform state policy decisions
- Member pricing on WIDA products, such as the resource guides
- WIDA Help Desk
- Serving on Consortium-wide committees, such as item review teams
- On-line test administrator training

- ✚ Information about the proposed Montana English Language Proficiency Standards and the Common Core State Standards was presented to the Board of Public Education (BPE) May 12, 2011. The proposed standards and assessment will be adapted to the Common Core standards. Documents from the BPE report are online:
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Pdf/Assessment/ELP/11Spring-Proposed-MT-ELP-Standards.pdf>
- ✚ The agreement with WIDA includes meeting current and future federal requirements including any through a reauthorized ESEA.
- ✚ Details regarding orders for tests, administration, and training will be provided by September 2011. Please keep in mind the importance of updating AIM data to reflect the current status of LEP students.
- ✚ More information about WIDA is online at www.wida.us

Testing Contractor Contact Information

The CRT and the CRT-Alternate – Measured Progress, Inc.

Dan Verdick, Montana CRT Program Manager
dverdick@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901 x2220
 Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant
nhall@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741
 Tim Greenlaw, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager
greenlaw.timothy@measuredprogress.org or
 800-431-8901x2309

English Language Proficiency (ELP) – WIDA

TBA

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